What Home Users Can Do To Bolster Cyber Security

1. Use a suite of automatically updating security tools that includes anti-Spyware, firewall and anti-virus software.

2. Be sure your operating system and Web browser are set to automatically update.

3. Use long, complex passwords for both your computer and your wireless network that include numbers, symbols and letters, and change them every 90 days.

4. Maintain vigilance online and be skeptical about giving up personal information.

5. Turn off your computer when you are not using it.

6. Employ the same online safety behaviors when "surfing" on a mobile device.

7. Be on the lookout for signs of an infected computer including slower processing times, unwanted pop-up ads and increased spam.

8. Talk to your kids about good online safety and security habits, including protecting their personal information and their reputation.

9. Know what sites your children are visiting online, and check their social networking regularly.

10. Regularly back up your files either online or to an external hard drive (and store in a secure location).

11. Post cyber security tips on your favorite community Listserv.

12. Go to your favorite search engine and search by your name and other family members to see what is on the web about you.

13. Make sure your children know that they can come to you if something online makes them uncomfortable, including what others are posting about them, unwanted contacts, and questions they have about staying safe online.

**MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES
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